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Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un inspects phosphatic fertilizer factory project

Kim Jong Un, chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, chairman of the DPRK State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the armed forces of the DPRK, gave field guidance at the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory under construction.

He was accompanied by Jo Yong Won, Ma Won Chun and Ri Jong Nam, senior officials of the WPK Central Committee.

Being briefed on the master plan for the construction of the factory and scientific and technological problems, the Supreme Leader acquainted himself with the construction of the factory in detail.

He expressed great satisfaction with the fact that officials and builders of all units involved in the construction are working hard at the forefront of the offensive for a frontal breakthrough in support of the grand plan and intention of the Party for the building of an economic power, saying he was deeply grateful to them for their efforts and hoping that this sector

would be the front which will make a breakthrough and put up the flag of victory for the first time this year when the Party set forth the great idea of mounting an offensive for a frontal breakthrough and that the news about the struggle in it would give tremendous strength and encouragement to all workplaces for a great upswing across the country.

The goal should be oriented to automating all elements and processes of the phosphatic fertilizer factory and completely building a labour-saving industry,

he said, adding that close attention should always be paid to ensuring the reliability of automatic control system and the safety of production processes, building up the technical forces of the factory and training producers into those with deep technical knowledge and high skills.

A sufficient supply of raw materials is the most important issue in putting the production of the factory on a normal footing, he said, pointing out that economic planning, command and guidance for the rapid restoration and

reconstruction of apatite mines should be organized carefully and dynamically pushed ahead in full consideration of every factor.

He stressed the need to scientifically examine issues which may affect the surrounding ecological environment in the course of the construction and operation of the Sunchon Phosphatic Fertilizer Factory and take measures to resolve them scientifically.

It is a matter of course that the flag flutters in the wind and the harsher headwind blows from the hostile forces, the more fiercely our red flag will flutter, he said. However grave the situation may be and however enormous difficulties may stand in our way, our ideal and aspiration will surely be achieved by our hands if we cherish the justness of our cause as the faith, believe in our own strength and steadily work harder more responsibly, more devotedly and more positively, he noted.

KCNA-THE PYONGYANG TIMES



LEAD

Leader cherishes a country of people full of happy things

Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un pursues the ideal and aim of elevating the people like God and leading them to fulfil all their desires and dreams.

Slogan "Everything for the people and everything by relying on them!" he set forth is enough to show how much he loves and believes in the people.

He has a consistent standard in judging everything.

Every structure should be favoured and frequented by the people and convenient and kindly to them.

By this standard, many structures for the people have been built in recent years, such as the Masikryong Ski Resort, Sci-Tech Complex, Ryomyong Street, Mirae Scientists Street, Ryugyong Dental Hospital, Rungna People's Recreation Ground, Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant, Kumsanpho Fish Pickling Factory and Mindulle Notebook Factory.

One March day three years ago, Kim Jong Un inspected

the construction site of Ryomyong Street which was nearing completion. He said he felt so happy at the thought that he became able to keep the promise to the people to finish the project by the Day of the Sun and that it was not long before he could share another pleasure with them, and stressed the need to do whatever is liked by the people and whatever is in their interests.

On his visit to the Pyongyang Taedonggang Fish Restaurant, which was wonderfully built on the banks of the Taedong River, in June two years ago, he referred to the need to conduct service activities meticulously lest the people should suffer any slight inconvenience and to strive to provide them with a more affluent and happier life, specifying tasks to be tackled in the management of the restaurant and service.

Last year, too, he uninterruptedly continued his inspection tour of devotion to the people.

Under his wise leadership,

Samjiyon City was turned into a model of socialist mountainous city typifying modern civilization, while the Jungphyong Vegetable Greenhouse Farm and tree nursery were built as magnificent creations for the people and the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort as a monumental structure in the era of the Workers' Party.

As he looked round the Yangdok Hot Spring Resort on December 7 last year on its inauguration, the Supreme Leader said happily that it became possible to realize the lifetime wish of President Kim Il Sung and Chairman Kim Jong Il who had been so anxious to build a holiday resort for the people in the Yangdok area which has been famous for hot spring since olden times.

The people's laughter is the motive power of socialism and when their happy laughter rings out everywhere in the country, it is precisely a powerful socialist state—this is just the cherished view of Kim Jong Un.

By Pang Un Ju PT

RALLY

Nation out for campaign to implement tasks set by WPK CC plenum

Pyongyang citizens thronged Kim Il Sung Square on Jan 5 to pledge to carry out the important tasks set forth at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

The mass rally was attended by Premier Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and member of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, Kim Tok Hun, vice-chairman of the WPK Central Committee, Kim Il Chol, vice-premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission, other senior Party and government officials, and working people and youth.

Speeches were made by Kim Nung O, chairman of the WPK Pyongyang Municipal Committee, Choe Hui Thae, chairman of the Moranbong District People's Committee, Kim Chol Ho, dean at Kim Chaek University of Technology, Jong Yong Suk, chairperson of the Ryokpho District Cooperative Farm Management Committee, and Pak Sun Il, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Committee of the Kimilsungist-Kimjongilist Youth League.

The speakers said that the historic report made by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the

Seventh Central Committee of the WPK reflects the firm faith and will of the peerlessly great man to smash straight through all the barriers and pave the way for victory of the revolutionary cause of Juche. His report also serves as a militant banner mirroring the offensive spirit and stamina of Paektu, they added.

They said that they keenly grasped the iron truth that the path led by the Supreme Leader leads to victory and glory, and that there are no difficulties and fortresses insurmountable when they struggle in the offensive spirit by holding fast to science and technology and the spirit of self-reliance as the treasured sword of prosperity.

They called for cherishing the main idea and spirit of the plenary

meeting and exerting redoubled efforts to make a giant stride forward in the revolutionary advance to realize the great cause for achieving prosperity on the strength of self-reliance and self-sustenance.

They stressed the need to conduct careful study and persevering pursuit to develop new technology, new products and new materials of worldwide competitive edge, consolidate the foundation and might of the self-supporting national economy and thus contribute to tackling bottlenecks in developing the economy and improving the standards of people's living.

They emphasized that they would bring about another rich harvest to upset the hostile forces keen on the moves to put stifling sanctions on the DPRK



Pyongyang citizens throng Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang to pledge to carry out the important tasks set forth at the recent Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

EDITORIAL

WPK adopts frontal offensive policy

The Workers' Party of Korea put forward a new line on smashing straight through all the barriers in the way of the advance of the country by staging a frontal offensive at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of its Seventh Central Committee at the end of last year.

The new line embodies an idea that the country should not wait for the situation to take a turn for the better, but mount an offensive to make a breakthrough head-on. In other words, it should never dream that the US and other hostile forces would leave it to live in peace, but make a frontal breakthrough on the strength of self-reliance to overcome the difficulties standing in the way of advance of socialist construction.

The WPK's new line reflects its firm courage and will, correct calculation and confidence in victory.

The US and other hostile forces have become ever more undisguised in their provocative schemes to completely isolate and stifle the DPRK while talking about dialogue with it.

The US' real intention is to seek its own political and diplomatic interests by stalling for time under the signboard of dialogue and negotiations while maintaining sanctions continuously to gradually reduce the DPRK's strength.

The cruel reality that the DPRK-US stalemate and confrontation has taken on a protracted character and the DPRK should continue to live under the vicious sanctions of the hostile forces convinced it once again that any illusions about the enemy and dream about the lifting of sanctions would only lead it to death and ruin.

All in all, the DPRK has and thus deal a heavy blow to the enemies.

A resolution was read out at the rally.

The resolution stated that all the officials, Party members and other working people in Pyongyang would turn out as one in the effort to glorify the 75th anniversary of the WPK as the great festival of victors

chosen a bold and decisive attack, an offensive to make a breakthrough head-on, as the best strategy to defend its dignity and socialism it has so far valued more than its life and to add lustre to and further develop them.

The offensive for a frontal breakthrough is not a passive defence, but an active attack and a tactic adopted with confidence in victory.

The US policy of hostility to the DPRK was not born yesterday and it has persisted for over seven decades. And the DPRK has always responded to it with offensive.

As it has built up its defence capability remarkably, the DPRK now possesses the state-of-the-art weapon systems that only developed countries in defence science have and has erected splendid creations continuously in the spirit of self-reliance in the face of unprecedentedly harsh sanctions.

It learned how to survive, how to defeat the enemy and overcome difficulties and how to defend its dignity and rights by their own efforts in the protracted tough circumstances history had never known before.

The revolutionary line on the offensive for a frontal breakthrough the WPK has adopted in readiness for the worst hardships will open a broad avenue for the DPRK's efforts to build a powerful socialist country while striking great anxiety and terrible fear into the enemy.

As they firmly believe in the validity and inevitability of victory of the WPK's decision and line, the Korean people voice full support for the new revolutionary line and have turned out like one for implementing it.

and demonstrate once again the invincible might of socialist Korea under the uplifted slogan of struggle set forth by the WPK plenary meeting.

The rally ended with a demonstration.

Similar rallies took place in provinces.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



ECONOMY

Key industrial sectors make a good start

There has been a fresh upturn in different industries.

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex increased the output of molten iron per charge from the first day of the new year.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and the Chollima Steel Complex reduced the melting time, thereby boosting iron and steel production.

On Jan 2, the Musan Mining Complex carried out a 400 000-cubic-metre blasting.

The successful blasting made it possible to produce and send more concentrated ore to iron and steel plants.

The Namhung Youth Chemical Complex runs every process at full capacity to put the production of Juche fertilizer on normal track, while the Hungnam Fertilizer Complex and the February 8 Vinalon Complex are pushing the

production of fertilizer, caustic soda and vinyl chloride needed for improving the people's living standards.

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex readjusted and reinforced production foundations by undertaking the capacity-expansion project of the lagging production base and devising and applying well over a hundred valuable technical innovation plans.

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex and the Sunchon Thermal Power Station maximize the output per generator and the efficiency of electric power by adopting advanced technologies.

The Tukjang Youth Coal Mine of the Tukjang Area Coal-mining Complex overfulfilled its plan by 37 percent on the first day of the new year.

The Ryongsong Machine

Complex, Taean Heavy Machine Complex, Sangwon and Sunchon cement complexes and other machine-building and building-materials production bases are overfulfilling their production plans for the supply of various products to different economic sectors.

The rail transport sector is scrupulously organizing the transport of freight to thermal and other power stations, metal works and other plants by setting up a strict unified traffic control system.

Workers of the Tideland Reclamation Complex of North Phyongan Province carried out a 200 000-cubic-metre blasting in the area of Posan to complete the primary damming project for the second section of the Woldo tideland reclamation.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



Industrial sectors register production growth at the outset of the new year.

SUCCESS STORY

Company director credits success to up-to-date innovation

"Our company lagged behind some ten years ago, but now it is known as a unit that thrives by its own efforts," said Ri Un Chol, director of the North Phyongan Provincial Long-distance Passenger Vehicle Company that is located in the border city of Sinuiju.

With well over a hundred vehicles like lorries, buses and cars, the company transports materials for major construction projects and passengers.

According to senior engineer Kim Chol Hyok, the arrangement and guidance of transport for all the vehicles are made and provided under the integrated management system which enables the company management to control all its vehicles moving in and outside

the province in real time.

The integrated management system program developed by the company contains detailed information about the correlations between all important factors affecting long-distance service such as the technical features of relevant roads, the appropriate speed and distance of vehicles, their technical performances, their intelligent coefficient when under seasonal influence and the technical knowledge and skills of drivers.

All information is displayed in real time, including the current position of running vehicles, the distance they ran, their departure and arrival times and the amounts of fuel supply and consumption.

"As a result, we use much less fuel and vehicle parts than previously, saving more than 100 tons of fuel annually," said Kim Chol Hyok.

A wireless transmission counter has been introduced into transport by car.

The counter transmits all data about service to the company's server, including the number of runs, the distance covered with or without passengers and fare. Its production cost is over 70 percent lower than that of imported ones.

"This year, our company made and introduced a front wheel side slip stand for the first time in the country to increase the lifespan of wheels and decrease the risk of accident," said repairman Han Myong Gun. "With the

INSPECTION

Premier Kim visits steel giant

Premier Kim Jae Ryong, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and member of the State Affairs Commission of the DPRK, visited the Chollima Steel Complex in the DPRK's Nampho City.

Looking round the steel shop, he gave a pep talk to the workers who turned out the first molten iron this year, and learned in detail about the operation of equipment and production.

In the consultative meeting

he called on officials to bear in mind the main idea and spirit of the December plenary meeting of the Party Central Committee and work hard with a determination to contribute to the economic growth of the country by bringing about an upsurge in production. And he discussed practical measures to ensure the timely and proper supply of raw and other materials and equipment by relevant units.

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INAUGURATION

Projects completed

A modern fishery station covering an area of tens of thousands of square metres has been built in Thongchon county town of Kangwon Province.

At the inaugural ceremony on Jan 6, Chae Il Ryong, chairman of the Kangwon Provincial People's Committee, said that builders completed the Kangwon Provincial Fishery Station which is equipped with everything needed for fishing, processing and living of fishermen by constructing office and auxiliary buildings, wharf, cold storage and other structures.

He called on all working people to catch big hauls of fish and ensure a good supply of them so as to enrich the provincial people's diet, bearing

deep in their minds the tasks set forth by the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

A kimchi factory has been built in the Songchon area of Wonsan, Kangwon Province.

With an annual production capacity of hundreds of tons, it has production and office buildings and welfare facilities.

The production building is furnished with bok choy and sliced radish kimchi production processes, a spices processing process, general control room and sample products room.

It also has underground bok choy, radish and container depots.

By Ri Myong Jun PT



A facility of the new fishery station built in Kangwon Province, the DPRK.

help of information transmitted from the counter, we keep abreast of the conditions of all our vehicles and take necessary measures in time."

It also replaced the petrol engines of all buses amounting to dozens with diesel engines to create huge reserves and set up a nice repair base.

It makes an effective use of its some 5 000 square metres of area.

On the rooftop of its building there are windmills, solar panels, pigpens, chicken coops, a catfish pond and a vegetable greenhouse and in the basement are a fish pond and mushroom

cultivation ground.

The company director said that they annually produce a large quantity of pork, catfish, eggs and vegetables by employing scientific farming methods including food production cycle to contribute to improving the employees' dietary life.

It has been rated as one of the ten model informatization units this year, too, in the wake of last year, highly appreciated at different sci-tech festivals, exhibitions and presentations and awarded the title of model technical innovation unit twice.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

HONOUR



Priority given to improving quality and competitive edge

A ceremony took place at the People's Palace of Culture in Pyongyang at the end of last year to award the December 15 Medal of Quality, the top prize awarded to domestic products with excellent quality.

The nation's best products were chosen at the event. They included men's and women's leather shoes for winter made by the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory in Kangwon Province and full bok choy kimchi and sanitary ware of the Ryugyong Kimchi Factory and Narae Ceramic Factory in Pyongyang.

Maebongsan shoes win growing popularity

The Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory has a high profile across the country.

Its Maebongsan-brand leather shoes won many gold medals, top prizes and diplomas at national footwear shows and consumer goods exhibitions every year.

Recently, its men's and women's leather shoes for winter received the December 15 Medal of Quality as they are attractive, light and durable.

'Feedback book'

The factory has an unusual "feedback book".

According to its technical staffer Paek Myong Song, the book helps them keep abreast of customer reaction to their products and improve their quality constantly.

Therefore, the secret of success of Maebongsan shoes that increase in variety and enjoy steady demand might be found in the book which has been kept since the factory underwent a modernization project:

April 2016

Opinion: I bought bootees only two months ago, but the outsole has come off already.

Measure: Make exact demands and heighten a sense of responsibility in the process of inspecting glued parts.

October 2018

Opinion: Children's shoes are really durable, but the gem decorations on the ribbon easily falls off.

Measure: Develop a stronger adhesive and fix the ribbon in the uppers workshop.

February 2019

Opinion: There are many winter boots for children in stock, but not all sizes. I could not find an appropriate pair for my child. I hope the factory would produce all sizes of children's shoes.

Measure: Produce shoes of size 25 and larger.

Much effort in design

Design is an important process in developing new products.

The factory is creating a wide range of designs of shoes for all ages, varieties and seasons, said

Paek Myong Song.

The design division is made up of young designers in their twenties and thirties.

They readily adopt the popular fashions of the day and scout shops in Pyongyang and Kangwon Province for public demand to decide the colours and materials for their products.

"It is important to make the colour and decorative patterns attractive at first glance," technician Choe Il Sim said. "Even the shoes of the same shape looks very different if they have different decorations and colours."

Relying on local materials

"One of the reasons why Maebongsan leather shoes are much sought after by the people is that they are made with locally-available materials and locally-made equipment," said

Manager Jang Sung Ho.

The factory automated the shoe production processes in an all-round way by introducing advanced facilities including automatic gumming and sewing machines and laser cutter through a mass technical innovation movement.

These machines are the outcome of the painstaking efforts of its technical staff.

Such main materials as synthetic leather, polyvinyl chloride and polyurethane adhesive are all from local factories.

Now the factory has set a new business strategy in line with the developing global trend.

"At present, health-promoting shoe liners are developed and produced in the country. Our factory can also make functional shoes by adding anti-bacterial nanomaterial to the outer rim and sole," said the manager.

By Chae Hyang Ok PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Various types of shoes are produced at the Wonsan Leather Shoes Factory in Kangwon Province.

Factory improves taste of kimchi

The Ryugyong Kimchi Factory in the suburbs of Pyongyang is the number one kimchi maker of all local factories specializing in making kimchi, a traditional Korean food.

The factory produces fresh kimchi in dozens of kinds in all four seasons and supplies them to Pyongyang citizens.

Most popular among them is full bok choy kimchi.

Even a glimpse of it stuffed with a mixture of such spices as red pepper powder, garlic, ginger, onion, sugar and salted shrimp is enough to make the viewer's mouth water.

Customers say everyone likes it as it tastes so strong, refreshing and savoury yet hot, sweet and sour.

"The secret is to pickle bok choy heads in a proper time

Narae holds limelight with green ceramics



RYU KWANG HYOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Some products of the Narae Ceramic Factory in Hyongjesan District, Pyongyang.

Narae-brand ceramic ware and flowerpots are now very popular with consumers.

Users say that Narae products are identically high in the degree of whiteness, glossiness, smoothness and mechanical strength, adding flowerpots give a friendly feeling with the combination of beautiful shapes and vivid colours and they look like artworks for their delicate and refined pattern decorations.

Their producer is the Narae Ceramic Factory in Hyongjesan District of Pyongyang.

Though it has been only some 10 years since its establishment, the factory assumes a complete aspect as an independent and modern pottery maker.

"Those who visit our factory for the first time are surprised to see it since all its production processes have been put on an intensive basis in a three-storey building with small plottage, instead of a single-storey building erected in a large area which is usually seen in other ceramic factories," said Pak Song Min, manager of the factory.

The factory has solid foundations including a fully-

automated kiln and processes conducive to improving the quality of gypsum.

"The Korean ceramics earn worldwide fame as they are made of clean soil and water. We've continuously designed and produced different types of products by introducing a production technology that relies on locally-abundant raw materials and employing innovative management methods," said section chief Ri Hyang Mi.

The factory now turns out 21 articles of sanitary ware in 13 kinds and 19 forms of flowerpots in 10 sorts and their output has increased 30 times more than that of 10 years before.

Ri Hyang Mi said that the Narae products are green and water-saving ones with good washing performance and they have no harmful effect on human body.

"We will further enrich the nation's fine history and culture of ceramics by developing more world-famous products with a competitive edge," said the manager.

By Jong Hwa Sun PT

produce the taste of Korean kimchi.

"Foreigners who have acquired a taste for our kimchi unanimously complain that though they made kimchi in the way they learned when they stayed in the country, they taste bad. So we tell them that the secret is to make it with the clean water and vegetables growing in our soil and climate and that more important is the workmanship of the Korean people, especially the hands of Korean women," said factory manager Paek Mi Hye.

By Ri Sang Il PT

WMC

Students honoured with grand master of memory award

Last year six DPRK university students won the International Grand Master of Memory.

The International Grand Master of Memory is a high-level award at the World Memory Championships, an annual event since 1991.

In the 28th World Memory Championships held last year six DPRK university students broke the world records in many events, setting new Guinness record in four divisions.

Ryu Song I at Pyongyang University of Foreign Studies shot to fame as the star of the championships to become the focus of attention of the memory circles.

The 19-year-old undergraduate scored 9 964 points, over 900 points higher in aggregate than the world records so far, and renewed Guinness records in three events, winning the title of the world greatest memorizer which is awarded to only one contestant in the championships.

To everyone's surprise, it is only a year since she began super speed reading training.

"I've never heard that I had a good brain before. My scholastic achievement in my class was so-so. But super speed reading radically improved my intelligence. I owe my achievement to the teachers who pioneered excellent SSR methods with great efforts," said Ryu.

After joining the university's SSR hobby group, she mastered the SSR method a lecturer adopted in full consideration of the characters of each group member. Her prowess is memory of numbers.

Jon Yu Jong, 22-year-old postgraduate student, has

learned SSR since her middle school years and achieved good results in national memory competitions.

She is very good at memory of Korean words, virtual events and read out numbers. In the recent championships she scored 9 516 points in aggregate, nearly 500 points higher than the previous world record.

"Team spirit that I am not an isolated individual and that we have to exalt the honour of the country was a great encouragement to me. I was very tense because it was my first international debut. But now I have the self-confidence that a winner of our contest will be the winner of international events," said Jon.

Kim Su Rim and Ri Song Mi, aged 20 and 18, are undergraduates at Kim Hyong Jik University of Education. They are well-known masters of memory who have already obtained excellent results at the 27th World Memory Championships in 2018.

In the recent championships Kim scored 9 362 points in total,

more than 300 points higher than the previous world record, and set a new Guinness record, while Ri finished runner-up in two events.

They also attribute the secret of their success to the sincere and ingenious method of education and warm affection of their lecturers.

Kim Ju Song, 22-year-old student at Kim Chaek University of Technology, finished runner-up in two events and Jon Kum Phyong, 19-year-old student at the same university, came second in two events and third in one event in the championships respectively.

"Most important in SSR is not brain, but spiritual strength and grit. Given there are excellent teachers and SSR education methods, the SSR ability of students wholly depends on their efforts," they said.

The grand masters of memory who showed to what extent human intelligence can develop are now redoubling their efforts to attain higher goals.

By Kim Rye Yong PT



PAK CHANG BOK / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Students and teachers pose together with their awards from the 28th World Memory Championships in Wuhan, China's Hubei Province last December.

LIFE

A glimpse of morning in Pyongyang

The Korean people have greeted the New Year 2020 with great confidence and ambition.

All houses, streets and villages and every workplace seething with creation and innovation brim over with the delight of having greeted the hope-filled new year.

All the Korean people, who are out in the new year's advance in response to the historic report made by Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un at the recent plenary meeting, are determined to attain higher goals for the building of a powerful socialist country this year, too.

Watchwords and slogans in every street of the capital city and powerful and light music

from loudspeaker vans hasten working people's pace.

Everyone inspires each other to make further efforts, when they exchange the new year's greetings of warm affection.

"Our university takes an important position and duty in carrying out the Party's strategic plan for building a sci-tech and talent power," said Jong Kwang Chon, vice-president of Kim Chaek University of Technology. "We'll create a positive atmosphere of improving the qualifications of lecturers and developing new teaching methods, so as to prepare students into innovation-oriented talents with great research and application abilities."

Pak Pyong Sop, People's

Artist and section chief of the Phibada Opera Troupe, is full of zeal to produce good pieces.

The Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex, the Pyongyang Kim Jong Suk Silk Mill and other units have brought about a drastic turn in production since the beginning of the new year on the strength of self-reliance and science and technology.

Children are seen in every playground.

Young boys and girls urge their grandparents to take them to the Rungna Dolphinarium, the Munsu Water Park and elsewhere from early morning, in order to enjoy their winter vacation merrily.

By Kim Kum Myong PT



Schoolchildren perform in the ongoing New Year celebration in Pyongyang.

WEATHER

Midwinter rainfalls baffle citizens

Recently it rained in Pyongyang baffling citizens.

At this time of the year, the city is generally covered with snow, but it is presenting an unusual sight of people carrying umbrellas.

The first rain of the year came on Jan 6, or Sohan which signifies the "beginning of the severest cold" as the 23rd of the 24 seasonal divisions by lunar calendar.

Since olden times, the Koreans have regarded Sohan as colder than Taehan which signifies the "height of the winter cold" as the last of the 24 seasonal divisions by lunar calendar. This is evidenced by Korean sayings "Taehan freezes to death on a visit to Sohan" and "Sohan visits Taehan to warm itself".

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

R&D

Dozens of products added to high-tech product list

Amid a dynamic campaign to develop new technologies, dozens of products were listed as high-tech products last year.

The faculty of daily chemical necessities of Pyongyang Han Tok Su University of Light Industry developed a polymerizing additive which makes it possible to recycle different kinds of plastic waste.

According to developer Yu Pong Suk, the additive is used for making the dust-collecting floating plastic ball at the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex. Its cost is half that of the previous rubber ball and its efficiency is twice as high.

Researchers of the electric power industry institute under the Ministry of Electric Power Industry developed a system parallel inverter which can directly put electrical energy generated with solar panels, wind-driven generators and the like into the national power grid without using batteries.

Those of Manufacturing Centre 111 under the State

The lowest morning temperature in the Pyongyang area around Sohan has so far been about 10°C below zero. But the lowest morning temperature on Jan 7 this year was over 1°C above zero.

Abnormal weather conditions have become commonplace all across the world. While one part of the world is hit by cold spells, the other part is affected by heatwave to record the highest ever temperature in the season.

Such abnormal weather conditions continue to be witnessed around the world including the DPRK.

Experts estimate that the country's winter temperature this year will be higher than average.

By Kwon Hyo Song PT

Academy of Sciences developed an air purifier and sterilizer that makes different places germ- and dust-free.

The cutting-edge technology development institute of Kim Il Sung University made a powerful ultrasonic processor capable of mass-producing nanomaterials at a low cost in different economic sectors including food and pharmaceutical industries.

The 3D printer, cloth for brush handwriting practice and reading pen which are popular with users were also added to the list.

Other new high-tech products on the list are those developed by Pyongyang University of Medical Sciences, the energy basic research institute of the University of Sciences, the environmental hygienics institute of the Academy of Medical Sciences and the central heating institute of the Ministry of Urban Management.

By Pang Un Ju PT

POLICY

DPRK committed to independence, peace and friendship

It is the consistent stand of the DPRK government to develop external relations under the ideal of independence, peace and friendship.

Last year, the DPRK actively promoted friendship, solidarity and cooperative relations with socialist countries and others that are friendly to it as it attached importance to them.

The summit meetings and talks between the DPRK and such countries as China, Vietnam and Russia marked significant occasions in ensuring many-sided cooperation and exchanges with the traditionally friendly countries on a regular basis and putting them onto a higher stage.

It developed and expanded economic and cultural exchanges and cooperation with different countries across

the world by transcending differences in ideology, social system, religious creed and political view and cemented ties and solidarity with the world's progressive peoples aspiring after independence and justice.

It also strengthened external relations with lots of countries and regions around the world.

The country attended different international and regional gatherings in a show of its will to join in global efforts, including the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held in China in April and the eighth meeting.

This year, too, the DPRK will proactively promote visits and exchanges at all levels with many countries to make a positive contribution to global peace and prosperity.

It regards independence as the

lifeblood of its ideal of peace and friendship.

This is the age of independence and the time has passed when any specific country had the world under its control.

The US demanded the DPRK, which held out hands of conciliation and goodwill irrespective of the past, make a unilateral concession.

In the past two years alone, the DPRK took crucial measures first to stop nuclear test and ICBM test fire and shut down the nuclear testing ground in order to build confidence with the US. But the latter threatened it militarily by conducting dozens of big and small joint military drills which its president had personally promised to discontinue and by shipping latest war equipment into south Korea and adopted

over a dozen independent sanctions measures.

Under such circumstances, the DPRK has found no grounds to be unilaterally bound any longer by the commitment with no other party to honour, and this puts a damper on its efforts for disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons across the world.

Even if there were not the nuclear issue, the US would find fault with another thing that the DPRK does, and the US and other hostile forces would keep posing military and political threats in the hope of constant concession, holding the old card of "lifting of sanctions".

It is true that the DPRK urgently needs external environment favourable for its economic construction, but it will never sell its dignity which it has so far defended as valuable as its own life.

The DPRK will continue to strive to make the whole world independent in accordance with the ideal of independence, peace and friendship.

By Om Ryong PT

totally denying it.

To settle past wrongdoings is a current international trend. Redressing the sinful past is the only way for Japan to make a new start.

By Min Chol PT

HISTORY

A product of military coercion

The Hansong treaty was another gangster-like, unequal pact which paved the way for Japan's invasion of Korea.

In the latter half of the 19th century, world powers competitively buckled down to gaining control over Korea.

With a wild ambition to annex Korea, Japan had long made desperate attempts to make a breach by any means in the aggression of the country before any other countries.

At that time, the bourgeois reform movement was maturing in Korea to carry out modernization.

Driven by the misgivings about the movement, Japan resorted to a base two-faced game of supporting Korea's reform outwardly and of working in every way to frustrate it behind the scene.

Japan cunningly gave a hint to the army of the Qing dynasty stationing in Korea that a big event would take place within the Korean feudal government in the near future. When the Kapsin coup for the bourgeois reform was mounted in 1884, Japan broke the promise it had made to defend the Korean royal palace and withdrew its troops on duty of guarding the palace, thereby making the coup end in failure in three days.

This notwithstanding, Japan shifted the blame for the fire its minister had set on its legation as he ran away at the time of coup on to the Korean government after the failure

of the coup and cooked up a scheme to further pursue the policy of aggression over Korea on this pretext. It landed two battalions of its aggression forces and seven warships at Inchon Port on the pretext of protecting Japanese residents.

And it forced the conclusion of the Hansong treaty containing a gangster-like demand that the Korean government should compensate for the "damage" Japan had suffered at the time of the coup.

In the treaty Japan demanded Korea issue the sovereign's message of apology and investigate, arrest and severely punish the Koreans who killed the Japanese, compensate for the damage the Japanese dealers suffered and pay over 100 000 won for the reconstruction of the legation. After all, they shifted the responsibility for all happenings caused in connection with the coup on to the Korean government.

The international law on customs and the Vienna treaty on the law of treaties, modern international laws, stipulate that a treaty concluded under duress is null and void.

It is as clear as day that the Korean feudal government could not represent its voluntary will under the threat and blackmail of aggression forces.

This is the historical background of the conclusion of the treaty Japan forced the Korean feudal government to sign on January 9 1885.

Later on, Japan fabricated illegal and unlawful criminal documents one after another in this way, finally reducing Korea to its colony.

Not content with embellishing its past crimes, it is distorting its blood-stained history while

JAPAN

NHK's false report, accidental or deliberate?

North Korea's missile is estimated to have fallen into the sea about 2 000km east of Hokkaido, said a flash posted on Japan's NHK website on Dec 27 last year, which was deleted after a while.

Later, an NHK announcer in a news programme corrected the mistake, apologizing that "it is a training sentence, not a fact".

The point is whether it was merely a mistake or not.

In order to find the answer, it is needed to consider the following fact.

The Japanese defence ministry is reportedly planning to upgrade its missile defence system.

According to Russia's Interfax on Dec 29, the Japanese defence ministry anticipated the upgrading this year in a bid to intercept ballistic missiles of north Korea.

The medium-range interceptor missile SAM-4 presently possessed by Japan is said to be unable to shoot down the missiles which suddenly change their trajectory and fly at a low altitude.

Therefore, Japan is planning to initiate the upgrading project this year so as to address the

shortcomings of the existing antimissile system.

Considering the fact, the recent false report cannot be overlooked as there have been several similar cases in the country.

Then why do the Japanese find fault with the DPRK's missiles and why was such a false report given at the close of the year?

The Japanese government has hatched the plot in an organized and planned way in a bid to remind the citizens of the "threat from north Korea and its missiles" and create an atmosphere of fear about the DPRK.

It might take into account a possible reaction at home against the new defence budget.

Japan has increased its defence spending every year.

Its real aim is to suppress the possible public opposition to the defence budget increment for the scheduled upgrading programmes at the beginning of this year by linking it with the "north Korean missile threat".

But Japan had better keep in mind that no one would believe it if it lies too often as in an Aesop's fable.

By Song Jong Ho PT

Briefly

Iraq

Iraqi parliament resolves to expel foreign troops

The Iraqi parliament passed a bill to demand foreign troops leave the country on Jan 5.

More than 5 000 US troops are reportedly stationed in Iraq under the pretext of "anti-terror war".

A special parliamentary session convened and agreed with the overwhelming approval of assemblymen to demand an end to the stationing of foreign troops in Iraq and the prohibition of their use of its airspace and territorial waters.

EU

European countries react to US' sanctions

At the end of last year, the US adopted a defence budget bill for the 2020 fiscal year which envisaged sanctions measures against the European companies which have been involved in the gas pipeline project "Northern stream-2".

A spokesman for the German government said that it opposes such extraterritorial sanctions which inflict damage on the German and other European companies and warned that they would make a counterattack upon the US within the scope of the EU.

The European Commission also expressed its resolute rejection of the US' sanctions against the legitimate activities of the European companies.

US

Americans say no to war

An anti-war demonstration was held in Washington DC on Jan 4 with the involvement of huge crowds in protest against the US' missile attack on an airport in Baghdad, Iraq, and the administration's attempt to additionally dispatch thousands of troops to the Middle East.

Marching through streets, the protestors demanded the withdrawal of US forces from the Mideast.

That day, similar protest actions were staged in New York, Chicago and other cities.

Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific nations affected by natural disasters

According to local media outlets, a wildfire has swept through Australia, killing 21 people and destroying more than 1 500 houses.

Several diseases broke out in Bangladesh in the recent spell of cold weather.

An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale happened on Jan 5 in the sea off Java Island and another one measuring 5 occurred in a place 290km northwest of Sao Roque in Indonesia.

RESOLVE

'We will bring home more gold medals'

We, sportspeople, are now full of a resolve to dash forward towards greater victory in the New Year.

Last year we won 180 gold medals in international competitions, flying the three-colour national flag in the sky of the world and exalted the dignity of the country.

I think it is only sportspeople who raise the national flag on the world stage in peacetime and it is our pride and honourable mission.

Last year I clinched the world women's 53kg wrestling title.

I got a hero's welcome on my return from the world championships. I can never forget the great excitement and joy I felt that day.

I think it was because I won a sweeping victory in the final match by defeating the opponent 12-1 and demonstrated the characters and stamina of the Korean people.



The looks of all people in the country as well as my parents and villagers, who work hard to open the way to prosperity by their efforts in the face of all kinds of difficulties, gave me a great encouragement and threw full weight behind me.

In the New Year our people have taken a big step forward in hearty response to the ardent call Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un made for breaking through head-on all the barriers to our advance at the Fifth Plenary Meeting of the Seventh Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea.

I am determined to bring honour to the country again by training harder and polishing my special techniques to keep pace with the energetic forward march of our people.

Pak Yong Mi, wrestler at the Pyongyang Sports Club

ICH

New items added to local ICH lists

The National Authority for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the DPRK has recently inscribed new elements on national and provincial intangible cultural heritage lists.

The new national ICH articles included a custom of 24 seasonal divisions of the year by the lunar calendar, tug of war, rope-skipping and hide-and-seek which come under social customs, rites and working manners.

The custom of 24 seasonal divisions is a working manner the Korean people created long ago in the course of doing farming and playing a variety of folk games by dividing a year into 24 seasons.

The tug of war is a sports event in which two teams consisting of the same number of players measure their strength by pulling against each other on the opposite sides of a rope. The game has been played on *Jongwoldaeborum* (the 15th day of the first month by the lunar calendar) and other folk holidays.

As one of the most popular items in the present sports and amusement games, it wins

growing popularity.

The rope-skipping, a kind of game in which children jump up and down over a fixed or revolving rope, and the hide-and-seek, in which a boy or girl should find out several hidden children, are typical folk games that have been carried on since long ago.

The mullet soup of the Taedong River belonging to traditional foods and dietary life customs and the beauty of white apricot of Hoeryong belonging to social customs, rites and working manners have been registered as items of the

GEOPARK

Unusual geological features of Mt Paektu

The sites of significance showing the geological features of Mt Paektu also include such volcanoes located at the outer rim of Lake Chon caldera as Hyangdo, Tangyol, Haepal and Ssangmujigae peaks and Kat Peak as well.

The Hyangdo Peak volcano in the eastern part of the outer rim is 2 712m above sea level, and at the base of the peak there are the trachyte and trachydacite which were formed by explosive eruptions and effusive eruptions of lava to be piled up to the height of 440m above the water surface of the lake.

As the summit of the volcano is covered with white pumice to a thickness of 1-15m, Mt Paektu looks white all the year round.

Autographic writing of Chairman Kim Jong Il "Mt Paektu, the sacred mountain of the revolution" is inscribed on the ridge of Hyangdo Peak which keeps rare geological changes that were brought about with the passage of time.

Tangyol Peak volcano (2 661m) and Haepal Peak

volcano (2 719m) in the southern part of the outer rim were also formed by the alternating explosive and effusive eruptions. There are as many as 17 flowing patterns on the ridge of Haepal Peak, which were formed as glowing clouds covered it after volcanic eruptions.

Ssangmujigae Peak volcano (2 626m) in the eastern part of the outer rim is the only volcano that preserves the summit in its original shape in the outer rim.

The peak presents a spectacular sight as it is covered with white pumice at the summit and slope to a thickness

of some 100m.

Kat Peak has a geological section showing the alluvial section of volcanic ejecta from different types of volcanic activities.

The geo-section is of great significance in the study of volcanic geology, as it shows both the explosive eruption of yellow pumice and the effusive eruption of rhyolite mixed with obsidian that took place before the eruption of white pumice on Mt Paektu.

Pak Song Chol, professor, PhD and section chief of the State Academy of Sciences



BY COURTESY OF THE STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
Tangyol Peak in the southern part of the outer rim of Lake Chon on Mt Paektu in the DPRK.

EDUCATION

Hobby groups help students nurture talents

Sunan Hero Technical Senior Middle School in Sunan District, Pyongyang, is famous for training many talented students.

It is the fruit of the active running of extracurricular hobby groups.

"We attach importance to the activities of extracurricular groups to develop the aptitudes and talents of students," said Principal Mun Jong Ran.

The school has the groups of math, physics, computer, volleyball, basketball, brass band, music and fine art in each school year.

Students acquire knowledge and improve their skills in their groups.

Students find the groups very helpful to them, saying "My dream is to be a doctor of mechanical engineering like my father. It is nice to put my knowledge to practical use in the extracurricular group" and "We schoolgirls often find it difficult to learn physics, but we have gained confidence as we learn physical phenomena in life at the group."

The brass band group has made the name of its school for over 10 years.

The 40-odd-member band plays solemn or light music pieces standing in a fine array, drawing praise from passers-by.

The members flaunt their skills on different occasions including the opening and graduation ceremonies at the school and various other events.

According to PE teacher Ri Yong Ho, the number of students who wish to play football, basketball and volleyball is on the increase as the whole society burns with the zeal for sports.

The sports groups direct special efforts into basic training and the video recordings of model movements at national and international games have proved effective in improving the students' sports skills.

The members of the music group take vocal and instrumental music lessons and their solos, group singing and instrumental ensembles are highly acclaimed by the audience.

Lots of graduates play an important part at professional art troupes, which is very inspiring for the group members.

By Ri Sung Ik PT



PAK KWANG HUN / THE PYONGYANG TIMES
Girls do rope-skipping, one of the folk games, on New Year's Day in Pyongyang.

